

THE ANSWER OF THE GOVERNOUR AND Company of White-Paper-Makers,

To the Petition of the Nine Paper-Sellers, on the behalf of Themselves and Others; And to the several Objections that are still raised against the said Company.



THE said Paper-Sellers having perswaded divers Persons to deliver their several Petitions to this Honourable House, with design to obstruct the passing the Companies Bill this present Sessions of Parliament; and the Company having fully answered the said Petitions before the Honourable Committee, the said Paper-Sellers have also exhibited other Petitions in their own Names, and have endeavoured, with specious Pretences, to prevail with several worthy Members of this Honourable House (who were not present at any of the Committees upon the said Bill) to oppose the passing of it.

The weakness of the said Paper-sellers Arguments will appear, if we consider, how far the Establishment of the Manufacture of Writing and Printing-Paper in *England*, can be detrimental to any of the Subjects of this Kingdom; for it is hoped, that none in this Nation will be troubled if it be injurious to *France*, except these our pretended Champions for the Publick, who in both their printed Cases, shew how careful they are to preserve the French Interest; in Monsieur *Beillon's* Absence, they setting forth in the first Case, That when Trade is open, we cannot afford to make Writing and Printing-Paper in *England*; and therefore for the Encouragement of Navigation, in their second Case, we must go over again to *France* for the same.

The Establishment therefore of the Manufacture of Writing and Printing-Paper in *England*, if prejudicial to any of the Subjects, it must be either to the Paper-Makers, to the Paper-Sellers, or to the Paper-Buyers.

To the first the Company answer, That they do with all humble Submission acquiesce in the wise Determination of the Honourable Committee, upon several Hearings that were before them between the Company and the said Brown-Paper-Makers, and wherein they have been pleased to manifest how tender they have been of the Brown-Paper-Makers, in reserving to them the free Exercise of their Trades and Callings as fully as ever they had: Insomuch that there is not a Brown-Paper-Maker in *England* can show one Sheet of Paper of any sort of his making, but the Committee have reserved to the said Brown-Paper-Makers the Freedom and Liberty of making the same. And further, have granted them so great a Latitude in making several sorts of Paper exclusive from the Company, which the said Brown-Paper-Makers never yet could make, that unless they very much improve themselves, there must be above 40000 Reams of the said sorts of Paper imported every year from foreign Parts for the necessary Supplies of this Nation, by which it is most evident that the Brown-Paper-Makers cannot be prejudiced by the passing this Bill.

How far now it may be injurious to the Paper-Sellers is the Question, In Answer to which we must distinguish between the Monopolizing Paper-Sellers, who promoted and subscribed the Petition, and those Numbers of them mentioned therein; several of whom disown the said Petition, and have wish'd the Company might be successful in their Undertaking, that so they might be able to supply themselves with Paper at the Companies Warehouse, and not be obliged to run to these Wholesale Paper-Sellers Shops, who (for that reason) do now oppose the Company. For it is very observable that though they say the Paper-Sellers are very numerous, yet these Monopolizing Paper-Sellers were not able to procure more than two Hands to their said Petition besides their own, though great Endeavours were used by them to perswade several others, who refused to subscribe the same. So that as the Company have formerly set forth, the Persons injured by passing this Bill will come into a narrow Compass; for our seven Monopolizing Paper-Sellers having more Paper in their Hands than is in all *England* besides, they commonly buying up almost all the Paper that is imported, and the greatest part of the English Paper made by the Brown-Paper-Makers, they want nothing to compleat their Monopoly, but to get all the Paper the Company makes, and to oblige all other Paper-Sellers to buy it again of them at their own Prices; which the Company refusing to comply with, as being unjust and unreasonable, is the only Cause that these Monopolizing (or, as they call themselves, Wholesale) Paper-Sellers, have raised so great Opposition against the passing the Companies Bill.

As to the Paper-Buyers there can lie no Objection on their Parts, though these Whole-Sale Paper-Sellers have endeavoured to possess them that the Establishment of the said Manufacture will be injurious to their respective Trades, but there are few have had so little Sense as to believe so great an Absurdity, as that the making White-Paper in *England*, and thereby causing a greater Plenty, can be injurious to those that expend the same.

The Premises therefore being considered and examined, it will plainly appear that there are not above seven or eight Monopolizing or Wholesale Paper-Sellers who can be injured by the passing the said Bill; the Paper-Makers having free Liberty to follow their Trades as formerly; the smaller Paper-Sellers will by means of the Company be set upon an even Level with the Whole-sale Paper-Sellers, who now, like overgrown Trees, keep all the lesser Traders from thriving, and the Nation will be supplied with their own Manufacture: all which the Company humbly submit to the Consideration and wise Determination of this Honourable House,

